

REMARKS ON RECENT STATEMENT
BY IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to once again call upon the British Government to get the Northern Ireland peace process back on track and implement the recommendations of the Patten Commission in reforming the police service. The recent statement by the Irish Republican Army that they are taking their proposals to fully and finally decommission their weapons off the table is a direct result of the culture of hypocrisy and humiliation that plagues the Unionist parties and the British Government.

It troubles me that we have arrived at this point after the significant strides that had been made by Sinn Fein and the republican movement in the north in persuading the IRA to pursue a peaceful end to their struggle for a free and united Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that the Chief Constable of the PSNI, Hugh Orde, along with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn, have publicly accused the IRA of masterminding the recent bank robbery in Belfast without showing one piece of evidence is anathema to the core principle of due process that we hold so dear here in the United States.

These statements made to the press by the Chief Constable, and repeated by the Prime Minister and Taoiseach, are politically motivated and have no place in the criminal justice system. Sinn Fein and the IRA have said they will not tolerate criminality within the republican movement, and this policy of criminalization by the British Government brings us back to the days of Margaret Thatcher and the hunger strikes.

The public humiliation that the Reverend Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party so desperately seek of the Catholic community of Northern Ireland and the IRA should not be carried out by the likes of Mr. Blair and Mr. Ahearn while they maintain that they are committed to fulfilling the spirit and promise of the Good Friday Accords.

Central to the peace process in the north is the reform of a police service that for far too long has served as a tool of the Unionist majority and has sought time and again to punish, discriminate, and publicly humiliate the Catholic minority.

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The Catholics in Northern Ireland will never see the PSNI as their own police service if it is continually being used as a tool of unionism to disenfranchise their community.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn to stop their public posturing and press ahead with a return to the

Good Friday Agreement and, most importantly, the implementation of Patten. Sinn Fein has stated unequivocally that they are committed to the peace process and are opposed to any return to violence. It is essential that we get back to devolved authority for the people of Northern Ireland, both Catholic and Protestant alike.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF
THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
109TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, I submit the Rules Governing Procedure for the Committee on Science for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On February 10, 2005, the Committee adopted these rules by a voice vote, with a quorum present.

RULES GOVERNING PROCEDURE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

General Statement

(a) The Rules of the House of Representatives, as applicable, shall govern the Committee and its Subcommittees, except that a motion to recess from day to day and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee and its Subcommittees and shall be decided without debate. The rules of the Committee, as applicable, shall be the rules of its Subcommittees. The rules of germaneness shall be enforced by the Chairman. [XI 1(a)]

Membership

(b) A majority of the majority Members of the Committee shall determine an appropriate ratio of majority to minority Members of each Subcommittee and shall authorize the Chairman to negotiate that ratio with the minority party; Provided, however, that party representation on each Subcommittee (including any ex-officio Members) shall be no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio for the Full Committee. Provided, further, that recommendations of conferees to the Speaker shall provide a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members which shall be no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio for the Full Committee.

Power to Sit and Act; Subpoena Power

(c) (1) Notwithstanding subparagraph (2), a subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities to require the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers and documents as deemed necessary, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority of the Committee being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chairman, or by any member designated by the Chairman. [XI 2 (m)]

(2) The Chairman of the Full Committee, with the concurrence the Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee, may authorize and issue such subpoenas as described in paragraph (1), during any period in which the House has adjourned for a period longer than 3 days. [XI 2 (m) (3) (A) (i)]

(3) A subpoena duces tecum may specify terms of return other than at a meeting or a hearing of the Committee.

*Sensitive or Confidential Information Received
Pursuant to Subpoena*

(d) Unless otherwise determined by the Committee or Subcommittee, certain information received by the Committee or Subcommittee pursuant to a subpoena not made part of the record at an open hearing shall be deemed to have been received in Executive Session when the Chairman of the Full Committee, in his judgment and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, deems that in view of all the circumstances, such as the sensitivity of the information or the confidential nature of the information, such action is appropriate.

National Security Information

(e) All national security information bearing a classification of secret or higher which has been received by the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in Executive Session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping. The Chairman of the full Committee may establish such regulations and procedures as in his judgment are necessary to safeguard classified information under the control of the Committee. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any Member of the Committee, or any other Member of the House of Representatives who has requested the opportunity to review such material.

Oversight

(f) Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall meet in open session, with a quorum present, to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress for submission to the Committee on House Oversight and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of Rule X of the House of Representatives.

(g) The Chairman of the Full Committee, or of any Subcommittee, shall not undertake any investigation in the name of the Committee without formal approval by the Chairman of the Full Committee after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee.

Order of Business

(h) The order of business and procedure of the Committee and the subjects of inquiries or investigations will be decided by the Chairman, subject always to an appeal to the Committee.

Suspended Proceedings

(i) During the consideration of any measure or matter, the Chairman of the Full Committee, or of any Subcommittee, or any Member acting as such, shall suspend further proceedings after a question has been put to the Committee at any time when there is a vote by electronic device occurring in the House of Representatives.

Other Procedures

(j) The Chairman of the Full Committee, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

Use of Hearing Rooms

(k) In consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman of the Full Committee shall establish guidelines for use of Committee hearing rooms.

RULE 2. COMMITTEE MEETINGS [AND
PROCEDURES]*Quorum [XI 2(h)]*

(a)(1) One-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for all purposes except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Rule.